STATEMENT

	Top Ten Importer Countries of Indian goods during 1995-96 No.	Position of these Countries in the list of exporters of goods to India in 1995-96. No.
USA	1	1
Japan	2	3
U.K.	3	5
Germany	4	2
Hong Kong	5	19
UAE	6	7
Belgium	7	6
Russia	8	13
Bangladesh	9	29
Italy	10	9

Revise of Electoral Rolls

3119. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Election Commission propose to revise the electoral rolls for the entire country except Punjab and Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Election Commissioner has been convened a meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of the States/Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof and main points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the reasons for not ordering the revision electoral rolls in Punjab, Assam and Kashmir and the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (d). The Election Commission has already ordered revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date in respect of Punjab and Assam. The Commission has not yet decided on revision of electoral rolls or otherwise in respect of other States/Union Territories.

(b) and (c). The commission had convened a meeting on 3rd December, 1996 of the Chief Electoral officers of all states/Union Territories. The issue of revision of electoral rolls in the States/Union Territories other than Punjab and Assam was one of the issues scheduled for discussion in the meeting. The meeting had, however, been postponed and no fresh date has yet been fixed.

Policy for Export by SSI

3120. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Small Scale Industry's share in export as compared to the organised sector at present;

(b) the extent of its contribution to the employment generation and creation of wealth in the country; and

(c) the long terms strategy formulated for the development and growth of the Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Sir, Trade data compiled by DGCI&S does not indicate exports by Small Scale Sector Separately. However, the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries has indicated that out of total exports of Rs.82674.11 crores in 1994-95, the share of SSI sector was Rs.29068.15 crores which is about 35.15%.

(b) As per information available with the Office of Development commissioner, Small Scale Industries, there were 27.24 lakh SSI units in 1995-96 employing 152.61 lakh persons. No information is available regarding creation of wealth in the country by these units.

(c) The office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries is the nodal agency for formulation of long term strategy for the development and growth of small scale industries. The strategy includes continuation of existing measures such as priority sector lending to SSI, fiscal concessions, reservation of items for exclusive manufacture (currently numbering 836) and price and purchase preference to products manufactured by the Sector as well as new measures such as provision of adequate credit and improving quality of its delivery, providing infrastructural support through Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation, enhancement to entrepreneurship development institutes as well as involving voluntary agencies, strengthening special employment generation programmes by way of self & employment through PMRY schemes and enhancing information and data base of SSI sector.

[Translation]

Export of Tea to Pakistan

3121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to export tea to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of tea likely to be exported during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Indian tea is already being exported to Pakistan. In 1996-97, 90 MT of tea is estimated to have been exported to Pakistan in the six months ending September, 1996. All attempts are being made to increase indian tea exports to that country.

[English]

Task Force on Tea Production

3122. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Task Force or working group on tea production upto 2010 has been set up or proposed to be set up to ensure sufficient tea production for domestic supply and export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Policy for Foreign Direct Investment

3123. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed any policy regarding an annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India's study is openly sceptical of FDI inflows, talking of the irrelevance of further liberalisation;

(d) whether his Ministry has at any stage considered the results of the impact study of FDI on two major dynamic aspects of development, technological capability and export promotion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government's policy towards foreign direct investment (FDI) is to encourage a larger flow of FDI especially in critical sectors such as infrastructure and export potential industries. The Common Minimum Programme has shown a target of an annual inflow of 10 billion to be achieved in future.

(c) The RBI's study while commending the current policy on foreign investment and foreign technology (foreign collaboration) has observed that liberalisation policy is not the sale determinant of FDI inflows and that the policy environment while being important is not the only factor; it has to be supplemented by broader economic environment in the location of FDI. The study refers to the relevance of liberalisation measures in the same context.

(d) and (e). The RBI's study mentions that within the limitations of the sample period, the results of its impact study of FDI on two major dynamic aspects of development, viz. technological capability and export promotion do not present an quivocal support to such a view point. The study also indicates that technology transfer is only one element of the technological capability and by itself is not adequate to ensure the dynamics of technological progress. Technological capability building of a developing nation in the contemporary world is a combined process of technology-import from external sources, domestic technology efforts and the relationship between the two. Technology import may stimulate or substitute domestic technology-efforts. The technological developments of Indian industry would be influenced by cost advantages and unrestricted freedom for technology import. The study notes that significant positive impact on exports by foreign collaboration firms; is not visible presumably because of the attractiveness of the large and growing Indian market.

Indian Tobacco Company

3124. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to instruct Financial institutions to block any move of UK based BAT to take-over ITC Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the facts and details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). India shareholders (Including Financial Institutions) hold majority of the shares in ITC Ltd. Any decision regarding future of the company will necessarily have to be taken by the shareholders, Indian and foreign, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act.

Accommodation in Public Sector Undertakings

3125. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has framed/issued any guidelines in respect of sharing of Government accommodation by employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.